

**TOWNSHIP OF SOMERSET, COUNTY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN MINUTES FOR SPECIAL YEAR END, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING - JUNE 27, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER** - The Fiscal Year End meeting of the Township of Somerset Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor, Tim Shaw on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 7PM in the Somerset Center Community Room 12715 E. Chicago Road, Somerset Center, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. There were 9 citizens in attendance.

Supervisor - Tim Shaw – (Present)

Treasurer - Sharon Grech - (Present)

Trustee - Steve Meckley – (Absent)

Trustee - David Pumfrey - (Absent)

Clerk - Mike Bohnet – (Present)

**AGENDA** – Supervisor Shaw asked if there were any corrections to the agenda. Shaw moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second Grech. Vote taken: Ayes: 3. Nays: 0. Absent: 2. Agenda approved as submitted.

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS** – Supervisor Shaw stated that attendees have 3 minutes to address the Board at the beginning and at the end of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Opened at 7:01PM. Two (2) citizens came forward to speak. Public Comment closed at 7:05PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 TRUTH IN TAXATION**- Supervisor Shaw moved to open the Public Hearing for 2024 Truth in Taxation at 7:06PM. There were 7 people in attendance. Second Bohnet. Roll Call Vote was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Pumfrey and Meckley. Motion carried.

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**PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 TRUTH IN TAXATION (Continued)**- Clerk Bohnet reviewed the Truth in Taxation information from the Hillsdale County Equalization Department. Bohnet said millage with a public hearing is 2.9278 mills vs. base millage without a hearing of 2.7857 mills, which is a difference of 0.1421 mills or 5% higher. Bohnet said the Somerset Township taxable value for 2024 was capped at 5% and is \$276,068,837 compared to 2023 taxable value of \$256,164,109 which is \$19,904,728 more. Bohnet explained that the Taxable value of \$276,068,837 x 2.7840 mills rate would generate tax income of \$768,576, if no public hearing. The taxable value of \$276,068,837 X 2.9278 mills the Hedley allowed rate would generate tax income of \$808,274 or \$39,698 more if a public hearing is held. Bohnet said the effective date is 12-1-24 for Winter taxes. Supervisor Shaw asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak. No one came forward. Supervisor Shaw opened the Public hearing to the Board of Trustees. Following discussion Supervisor Shaw asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, Shaw motioned to close the Public Hearing on 2024 Truth In Taxation at 7:12PM. Second Bohnet. Roll Call Vote taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Pumfrey and Meckley. Motion carried. (See Attachments #1, #2, #3 and #4).

**Truth in Taxation-** Clerk Bohnet motioned to approve a change in the tax rate from the 2023 rate of 2.9731 mills to 2.9278 mills for 2024. Second Grech. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Pumfrey and Meckley. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING 2023-2024 BUDGET** - Supervisor Shaw moved to open the Public Hearing for the 2024-25 Budget at 7:15PM. Second Bohnet. Roll Call Vote taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Pumfrey and Meckley. Motion carried. There were 7 citizens in attendance. Clerk Bohnet reviewed the 2024-25 Budget for \$3,199,987, highlighting variances to the 2023-2024 amended budget of \$3,781,079. The decrease under the 2023-24 budget is \$581,092 or 15.3% less.

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**PUBLIC HEARING 2023-2024 BUDGET (Continued)**- Bohnet reviewed the 2024-25 budget variances by each fund (General, Roads, Fire Department, Police Department, Parks and Rec and Capital Improvement). Bohnet said the significant changes from the 2023-24 budget were the one time asset purchases for Fire Department addition (\$200K), Police Truck (\$54K), Ambulance (256K), ARPA (51K). Supervisor Shaw asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak. Two (2) citizens came forward. Supervisor Shaw opened the Public hearing to the Board of Trustees. Supervisor Shaw asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, Supervisor Shaw motioned to close the Public Hearing for the 2024-25 Budget at 7:22 PM. Second Grech. Roll Call was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. (See Attachments #5 and #6).

**BUDGET 2024-25** – Bohnet said the 2024-25 Somerset Township budget is for \$3,199,987 which is a decrease of (\$581,092) or (15.3%) over the 2023-2024 amended budget of \$3,781,079. Shaw asked if there were any further questions regarding the 2024-25 Budget. Following discussion Bohnet moved to approve the Somerset Township Budget for \$3,199,987 as presented for the fiscal year 2024-25. Second Grech. Roll Call was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. 2024-25 budget approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

**4th Quarter Amendments 2023/24** - Clerk Bohnet reviewed the 4th Quarter Budget Amendment #4. Following discussion, Bohnet moved to approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023-24 Budget Amendment #4 for \$36,142 resulting in a 2023-24 Amended Budget of \$3,781,079. Second Shaw. Following discussion Roll Call was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. (See Attachment #7).

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**2024 Salaries,Wages and COLA** - Clerk Bohnet reviewed the schedule of proposed Township employee salaries/wages increases effective 7-1-24 which are as follows:

Firefighters from \$11.14 to \$13.00

FF/EMT from \$13.85 to \$16.00

FF/Paramedic from \$17.08 to \$21.00

**3% Increases**

Sexton Burke -Bi-Weekly Salary from \$187.50 to \$193.13

Police Chief – J. Gessner - Salary from \$2,164.23 to \$2,229.16

EMS Coordinator - Keith – Salary from \$1,846.15 to \$1,901.53

Police Officer - McCann- Wages from \$20.60 to \$221.22

Temp Library Asst.- Andrews – Wages from \$10.30 to \$10.61

Librarian Bedard- Wages from \$18.03 to \$18.57

Zoning Administrator - LaRowe – Wages from \$22.50 to \$23.18

JCB Manager - Smith-Post – Wages from \$15.91 to \$16.39

Record Retention Clk. - J. Uyttenhove – Wages from \$15.00 to \$15.45

Deputy Clerk – S. Uyttenhove – Wages from \$19.61 to \$20.19

All of the above Township employees receive an additional 7% for COLA. Following discussion, Grech moved to approve the Salary Wage Schedule as submitted for wage increases for Firefighters, EMT and Paramedics and 3% for all other Township employees; and in addition COLA is capped at 7%, knowing that we may need to adjust COLA at a later date. Second Bohnet. Roll Call vote was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. (See Attachment #8).

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**FINANCES** – June, 2023-24 Fiscal year end bills as prepared by Deputy Clerk, Sharon Uyttenhove. Clerk Bohnet said the next payroll was July 2024. Bohnet reviewed the June accounts payables of \$20,649.45 by fund highlighting major items. Clerk Bohnet moved to approve the year end 2023-24 accounts payable for \$20,649.45. Second Grech. Roll Call Vote was taken with Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. (See Attachment #9 & #10).

**Resolution 2024-1 General Appropriations Act** –Clerk Bohnet said that Resolution 2024-1 combined the tax rates approved for Hedley with a public hearing of 2.9278 mills and other income and expenditures for the 6 departmental budgets totaling \$3,199,987 for the 2024-25 budget. Supervisor Shaw read page 1 of Resolution 2024-1. Treasurer Grech then read page 2 of Resolution 2024-1 and Clerk Bohnet read Page 3 of Resolution 2024-1. Following discussion, Clerk Bohnet motioned to approve Resolution 2024-1. Second Grech. Roll Call Vote taken: Ayes: Grech, Bohnet and Shaw. Nays: None. Absent: Meckley and Pumfrey. Motion carried. (See Attachment #11).

**Municipal Building IT Cables/Phones-** Supervisor Shaw invited K & L Telecom to present to the Board the services they can provide upgrading the municipal building phones. Following discussion about setup and internet providers, Shaw motioned to accept the K & L Telecom quote for new phone system and training for \$2299.24, and the PCS for cleanup of IT Cables for \$3734, for a combined cost of \$6033.24. Second Gretch. After further discussion, Shaw withdrew his motion and Gretch withdrew her support. The item was tabled until the next Board of Trustees meeting on July 18th, 2024.

**Removal of Bees-** Supervisor Shaw said there is a beehive on the McCourtie Park Disc Golf course by hole #14. Shaw stated that Steve Meckley has a contact that can relocate the bees. This was informative only, no action was taken.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

Fireworks July 5, 2023 Sunset

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Opened at 8:16PM. 1 citizens came forward to speak. Closed at 8:20PM.

**Board Comment-**

Hearing no further comment, the June 27, 2024 Special Year-End Meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM by Supervisor Shaw. Respectfully submitted by Shaina Kulczycki, Township Coordinator.